The Lions' Pride

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One Saint Leo Music Student's Journey

By Olivia Callahan
Contributing Writer

Plato once said that "Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul." Many students here at Saint Leo University agree and participate in the provided music classes and ensembles such as Saint Leo Singers, Chamber Singers, S.A.S.S, Saint Leo Rhythm Machine, and Saint Leo Strings.

While some students use these classes and groups as an extracurricular to exercise their love of music, other students hope to make it their career. One of these students is singer and songwriter Yohana Immanuel.

Immanuel is a Junior here at Saint Leo University and is a member of Chamber Singers, The Slam Poetry Club, and the Lion's Den Club. He also takes private voice lessons from Dr. Cynthia Selph, Assistant Professor of Music. In addition to growing through these programs and clubs provided by the school, the Saint Leo Community itself has influenced Immanuel. The exposure to different cultures and people at the university has "helped me develop my flow and ultimately grow as an artist," said Immanuel.

Immanuel's passion for music began at a very young age. When he began singing at the age of 5, he never stopped. Only five years later he wrote his first song, "King." This interest in composing only grew with Immanuel. Later, he and his high school friends began experimenting with studio recording.

"At my friend and producer Brandon's house," Immanuel said, "we started making music back in high school, and we've kept it going."

The music that Immanuel creates is usually R&B, but he also likes to record hip hop and rap. All of his songs, regardless of genre, are almost entirely based in freestyle. He records himself freestyling and then constructs a song from the recording. He reworks the lyrics to be more personal to his life.

It's a long process for Immanuel to finish a song because it's important for him to only release his best. His newest song, "January 1st," was just released this month to his SoundCloud page, https://soundcloud.com/yohanaimmanuel. He says that this song tells, "a story about a girl who only appreciates me for my potential but not for who I actually am."

Immanuel is only at the beginning of his career and plans to do music for a long time. With the support of Saint Leo University's music program, he will continue to improve and perfect his craft.

Photo by Wakens Leonard

Yohana is a member of multiple music groups on the Saint Leo campus, including the Saint Leo Singers, the Chamber Singers, and the Saint Leo Rhythm Machine.

Photo provided by Yohana Immanuel

Be Sure to check out Yohana's new song, "January 1st," on SoundCloud and be on the lookout for more upcoming releases from the promising musician.

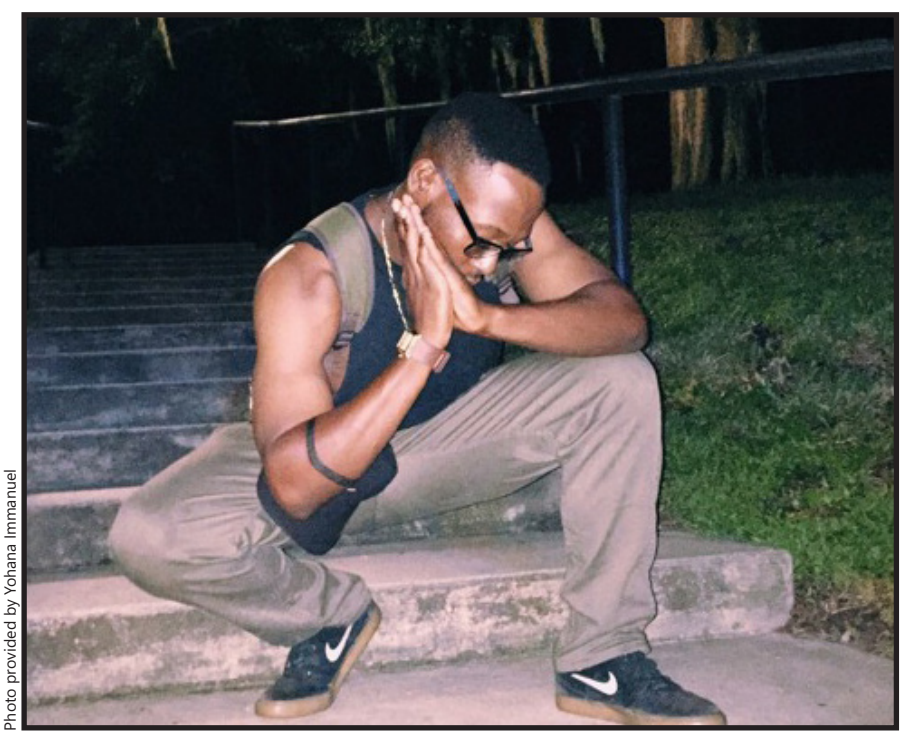


Photo provided by Yohana Immanuel

Yohana's inspiration comes from personal experience; each song reflects an event or important time in his life with lyrics that come straight from the heart.

Editorial

Should Social Media Influence Your Future Job?

By Kiersten Finch
Contributing Writer

Social media has become a major aspect of our everyday lives. We portray just about every detail of our personal lives on a variety of platforms. However, should we be judged on what we put out there for future employers to see, or should it just stay in our personal lives?

A future employer's biggest fear is failure. When a company hires you, your actions represent them, good or bad. It is crucial to have a perfect image; otherwise, it may cost you your job. Because of this, it is only common sense that your social media profiles do the same.

When projecting yourself all over the Internet, you should think very hard about how you're portraying yourself. Employers have every right to look into the social media accounts of their prospective employees in order to get a better glimpse into the people that they truly are. If a future employee is judged poorly based on what they're displaying and saying on social media, one could infer that the employee could make bad judgments within the company as well.

Regardless of your freedom of speech, what you say can have a permanent impact on those around you, whether or not that was your intention.

Everyone has the right to say and believe whatever they want, but once a message is put out on the Internet, it will remain there forever because there is no way to permanently remove it. After a post is made on a website such as Facebook, it is no longer your private life. You are displaying information for everyone to see; therefore, even your boss has access to it.

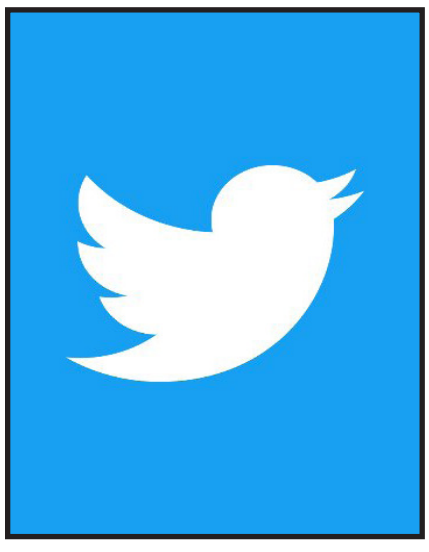
Due to the fact that you are choosing to post your life out on the Internet, your employer isn't even invading your personal life or your privacy. You are the one putting it out there to be viewed by anyone.

Some jobs even require you to follow their social media accounts and post on them, depending on your position. When applying for a job that may require this, it may be better to create a separate social media profile that is strictly for professional purposes that don't involve your social life.

If your personal profiles are public, it may benefit you to make them private and possibly even go by a pseudonym if you don't want companies to be able to find you and look into certain aspects of your personal and social life.

Although there are some ways to make your profile private and even hide it from employers, whatever you put out on the Internet will stay there for anyone to be able to see until the end of time.

So, it is wise to always keep in mind that if you don't want someone to see something that you posted on social media, then don't post it in the first place. Social media posts can have detrimental effects on your future career, success, and life.



Here's what you missed online this week at www.prideonlinedot.wordpress.com

Good Luck on Friday the 13th

Photo by John Hall

CAB's first novelty event happened to fall on the first Friday the 13th of the year, but students found new ways to rustle up some good luck.

Facebook Fights Fake News

Photo from @Reuters

The spread of fake news has increased as of late and Facebook has introduced a system that will help keep fake news from spreading so rampantly.

Grocery Store of the Future

Photo from @themomentumco

Amazon has pioneered a new way of grocery shopping. To learn more about what Amazon is doing, go online!

2017 Inauguration

Take a look at what happened during Donald Trump's presidential inauguration, and find out what he has accomplished during his first week as the president.

Newsroom

(352) 588-8316
Student Activities Building, Office 106
33701 State Road 52 Saint Leo, FL 33574

Letters To The Editor

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- No profane or slanderous language
- Students: Include name and year
- Faculty: Include name and rank
- Please include a phone number to verify authorship
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Campus News

The Struggles of Going Back to School

By Kiersten Finch
Contributing Writer

Going back to school after a long winter break is a challenge for most students. After reaching out to the students of Saint Leo, it seemed like several struggled with the same issues when returning to campus.

It is always hard to get back into the swing of a normal college routine after being on break for practically a month.

Cydney Barber, sophomore and multimedia management major, said she "[Struggles with] waking up for class after being able to sleep in."

Most students on campus are taking up to 6 classes; it can be very difficult to stay focused and in that scholarly mindset after their brain was on vacation as well.

Family is very important to the Saint Leo community. Leaving family members and pets behind when returning to campus can be a big struggle, especially for foreign students who maybe only get to go home and see their families once or twice a year. Even for those who live nearby, not being able to have their mom do their laundry and stock the fridge with their favorite snacks can be pretty depressing.

Athena Childers, sophomore and criminalistics major, said, "The hardest thing is leaving my mom. She's like my best friend. I'm her only child and my dad is deployed to Afghanistan. It's hard to leave her all by herself."

As much as students love the food here, home-cooked meals are definitely something to be missed after a long break.

Sabrina Diaz, junior and Criminal Justice major with a focus in homeland security, said she struggles with, "Going back to college food after getting home cooked meals."

Almost all students can agree that nothing is better than a warm, home-cooked meal, especially surrounded by their family members. It's also hard for a lot of students to have to come back to campus and live and share a space with others when they might have been used to having a big room and bed to themselves.

College is all about experiencing new things and growing as a person. So even though it may be somewhat difficult coming back to campus after that long break, students know it's all worth it in the end because they are surrounded by great faculty, staff, and friends that make the experience worth while.

Illustration by Austin Chiavaroli

The first couple of weeks back are always the hardest; students struggle to readjust to class schedules, sharing a living space, and living life without a nice, home-cooked meal. But once students get back into the groove, a fun semester is always in store.

Photo from Wikimedia

Perhaps the biggest challenge returning students face is readjusting to an appropriate sleep schedule. It's hard to get used to waking up at six or seven in the morning for class after sleeping in for almost an entire month during the break.

Technology

Drones - From Warzone to Emergency Help

By Rafal Matuszczak
Staff Writer

On Oct. 6, Verizon announced that the company began testing drones as a mobile service delivery system that would serve as a secondary way of connection during emergency situations. Projects that involve the use of drones have already been launched in the past by other companies. These companies demonstrated that drones which were initially invented for military purposes, similarly to computers, might benefit the whole society by a variety of services that they can provide.

The CIA has been using unarmed drones since 2000. During that time, the machines were flying over Afghanistan. However, after the attacks that happened in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, CIA began to use armed drones. Using such machines would give the US army an advantage of being able to attack a target without risking the life of its soldiers as all the attacks could be performed remotely.

On Feb. 4, 2002, for the first time a drone named "Predator" was used by CIA to attack a target remotely. According to the CIA, the drone was supposed to strike the place in which a terrorists' leader, Osama bin Laden, was hiding, according to thenation.com Even though the mission was not successful, because it turned out that bin Laden was not present in the place of attack, it started a new chapter in the history.

Since then, drones have been associated with machines that carry missiles, and their primary purpose is to attack distant targets, with the main purpose to kill people. Nevertheless, the most recent history of drones presents that even though they started as machines that take people's lives away, drones can become devices that can be utilized to save people's lives by helping those in emergency situations, in particular.

Today, not only do drones serve as tools for recording videos and taking pictures from the bird's view, but they also help people overcome problems that few years ago could not be avoided. The trials held by Verizon in Cape May, NJ only prove that the sky is the limit if it comes to the ways in which drones might be used to benefit the society.

For Verizon, the drones would serve as emergency LTE-based antennas that could deliver temporary service in areas where the terrestrial cell towers cannot be used. Such a solution would be useful for incidents dealing with a natural disaster when the communication is one of the most important aspects in regards to saving people's life.

"This latest trial demonstrated how emerging technology combined with wireless networks can improve safety and security," said Mike Haberman, vice president of Network Operations at Verizon, according to foxnews.com.

The flying antennas could also be useful in situations when the primary network is overwhelmed with a number of users trying to connect. For example, the drones could improve the service for the customers by providing additional access points. Drones are supposed to replace portable mobile cell towers that are used in such situations.

The project launched by Verizon is not the only one that is currently on the market. In fact, on this field, Verizon is just the competitor to another large network and mobile services company, AT&T. The company has also been testing drones for the same purposes. Additionally, AT&T plans on using them to inspect the already existing cell towers.

Inspecting the cell towers from the bird's eye view with the use of drones could greatly speed up the process as other machinery would not be necessary.

"By using drones to inspect a cell site, we're able to conduct inspections more quickly and safely – and even access parts of a tower that a human simply could not.We anticipate this will allow us to improve our customers' experience by enhancing our cell sites faster than ever before," said, John Donovan, Chief Strategy Officer, and Group President – AT&T Technology and Operations, according to about.att.com.

The company is researching how using drones could enhance the LTE network by sending large amounts of data in real time. AT&T indicates that if the project is successful and the solution works, drones might benefit many areas, such as facility and asset inspections or even farming.

Even though both Verizon and AT&T plan to use drones primarily in emergency situations, there are other companies that have much higher expectations in regards to the use of these machines. They do not only want the drones to fly for several hours when they are needed, but they expect them to fly for weeks or even months without being interrupted.

One of the companies that has such big aspirations is Facebook. On Jul. 21, 2016, Facebooks' team of engineers along with the company's founder, Mark Zuckerberg, met in Yuma, AZ to test their newest invention, a solar-powered drone: "Aquila", according to theverge.com

For the company, the drone's main purpose is to deliver Internet connection to remote places that cannot be connected with a use of different technology. Even though Facebook is mostly known for running its social platform, the company has recently become highly involved in the project of making the world connected and drones are where the company sees the biggest potential to make it happen.

Theverge.com reports that Aquila is Facebook's invention of which

Photo from @ichrisbishop

Amazon might soon start delivering packages using drones. The company has already launched trails in Great Britain where the law allows it.

wingspan is greater that a Boeing 737's. The 140 feet wide machine made of carbon fiber is designed in such way that it can stay in the air for three months in order to deliver high-speed internet connectivity. The signal is accessible within the range of 100 kilometers.

Delivering the internet to remote populations by using drones is supposed to be cheaper than other technologies. The drones do not require a lot of interaction with people as they use solar power and fly at more than 60,000 feet in altitude until their batteries have to be replaced eventually.

The batteries that the machines are equipped with allow them to stay in the air even when there is not enough solar power to let the engines work. The batteries capacity remains one the most important issue for the engineers. It is crucial for the machines to store enough energy, because only this way the project can be successful as the machines will not require constant interaction with people and they will be able to work independently.

Facebook announced that there are still many tests to be done before Aquila will be produced on a large scale. So far, the drone did not even reach the eventual altitude at which it will fly, according to Facebook. During the test, the machine reached the altitude of 2000 feet, and the flight lasted 96 minutes, which was an hour longer than what the company had eventually planned.

Nevertheless, the test was very important as it was Facebook's huge step towards making the Internet accessible for people who are not connected yet. Allowing the people to be connected will most likely result in an increase in the popularity of Facebook. However, even though some people might think the development of the drones is just a marketing strategy with the purpose of increasing the amount of accounts on Facebook, this invention will truly help many enclosed communities to get access to the outside world.

There are about 4 billion people who exist without the internet, and about 1.6 billion of them reside in places where it would be very hard to create the connectivity, according to Forbes. If the project ran by Facebook turns out to be successful, people will get better access to educational resources, important information will be delivered to them faster than ever before, and they will be able to connect with the world so that more opportunities will become available for them.

"You know, if you told me when I was getting started with Facebook that one day we would build planes, I would've told you that you were crazy. But this is now an important thing for us to do to fulfill this mission of connecting everyone in the world. We're bringing our 'move fast' culture to this problem, and I'm really impressed with our team's work. We're not a plane company, but within a little more than two years of having this idea and starting to build the team, we now have a plane which has flown for an hour and a half. [It's] just a really big milestone on this path to connecting everyone," said Zuckerberg in an interview for theverge.com

Even though it might already seem very impressive to use drones for connecting the world, it is very probable that there is much more to come. The machines have been already tested by many other companies to provide people with new services or to improve the ones already existing.

Companies, such as Amazon or UPS, plan to use drones to deliver packages. While Amazon is creating a whole new branch of their business named Amazon Prime Air that will be used for delivering packages to people's houses, UPS plans to use drones to deliver medical supplies in emergency situations.

There are many more companies on the market that are currently experimenting with the machines; and if the massive companies, such as those mentioned before, are so close to starting using drones on a daily basis, it is possible that many smaller companies will follow. Thus, drones instead of being associated with carrying weapons might soon be perceived as machines bringing help, services, and convenience for people around the world.

Worldwide

Fraud May be Lurking Around the Corner

By Randawnique Cokaley
Wordly Education Editor

In light of the most recent Wells Fargo scandal, the subject of fraud surfaces. For those who may not know, the Wells Fargo scandal involves the employees creating about 2 million fraudulent accounts. As a result, Wells Fargo has to reportedly pay a fine of $185 million dollars. This scandal is a major banking fraud; however, this is "not a classic fraud," according to Scott. In fact, this fraud compared to other scandals may pale in comparison because the victims were not as affected as much, as each victim in this scandal is probably only owed a couple of hundred dollars.

Scott describes this scandal as "nothing like the housing crisis," either. The housing crisis, also known as the mortgage crisis, is another major banking scandal that created a fracture in the economy due to a snowballing effect contributing to a recession known as the financial crisis in 2008. This crisis was essentially the result of many problems with mortgages, such as banks making loans with low down payment, making loans that may seem dodgy, and even making mortgages with adjustable interest rates. This crisis can be grouped with classical fraud itself as both can cause major disruptions in the economy.

"Classic fraud is done by someone who gains your trust. Often, they look the part: drive a nice car, might have a nice history of being a successful investor, or that's the story they tell. And usually they gain trust [because they] go to same church or come from the same country or the same city [as the victims]," said Scott.

Therefore, classical fraud can happen to people due to trust. This happens in many cases of fraud, with the Bernie Madoff scandal being recent. This fraud involved Madoff, who was a trusted individual due to his previous role in launching Nasdaq stock, offering high returns to investors, but he did not have a way to make profit to fuel the returns. Instead, without the investors' knowledge, Madoff utilized the newer investors' funds as the returns to pay the earlier investors, according to Business Insider, and he was able to cheat victims out of $65 billion. This fraud was exposed in 2008 and was essentially a Ponzi scheme - a system named after Charles Ponzi who offered investors a large amount of return in short amount of time. Many victims of the Madoff scandal were still not able to recoup their entire investments, unlike the Wells Fargo scandal where the victims already received funds or are going to receive their funds in the near future. There are many examples of Ponzi schemes and frauds that are not as high-profiled.

"For instance, there was a

Photo From @ WellsFargo

Victims of the recent Wells Fargo scandal have no problem with receiving the money that was falsely taken from them; however, the same cannot be said about the victims of the Madoff scandal.

fraudulent investment scheme where the man running it [Gregory Crabtree] got an ex-coach of the University of Georgia [Jim Donnan]; well, the coach believed in him. But then he had that coach who [had connections] to lots of alumni from the University of Georgia and other places he coached," said Scott. "And so people thought this is a guy [the coach] that earns a million dollars a year … and isn't out ripping people off because he is a millionaire. Well, he [Donnan] was involved and didn't even know it, and so this guy, [Crabtree], got access to someone who was trusted and used that trusted person to bring in the victims."

It's astonishing that so many Ponzi schemes and other frauds, as with the case of the Wells Fargo scandal, can go on undetected for months or even years.

"I am still surprised when I hear commercials out in the open for investments that I know are too good to be true. So, they are setting people up for fraud. I remember a commercial just a couple years ago that ran for several months on the radio," said Scott, "It's a work at home, make tens of thousands of dollars with no training, no effort [program]. This is obviously a fraud. [There has to be] government employees and regulators out there that can hear this, and there is nothing they can do to stop it? Sounds insane to me."

"This is an important thing if you're talking about classic fraud; usually the people that are victims are victims because of their own greed. Someone sells them something that's too good to be true and they take the bait," said Scott. "So, if someone is telling you can get 20% return or 50% return with no risk, don't trust them."

Finland Reform Education System

By Niclas Bez
Staff Writer

Finland is about to reform their education system drastically. Finland has been one of the leading countries for a successful education system that has been leading international league tables for literacy and numeracy. In tests for the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), Finland has been in the top three rankings with only Singapore and China being able to compete with the Scandinavian country.

The country's education committee plans to change the teaching subjects with topics, in order to prepare students better for their work life. This massive change would need a full rewrite of the current curriculum for all classes.

"This is going to be a big change in education in Finland that we're just beginning. We have to make the changes in education that are necessary for industry and modern society," said Liisa Pohjolainen, who is in charge of youth and adult education in Helsinki, in an interview with the British magazine Independent.

In Finland's capital, Helsinki, there are already test runs of the system for upper schools. The topics that the country calls "phenomenon" combine multiple subjects. For example, one topic that can be taught crossing multiple subjects is the European Union. In this topic, the students will learn a mix out of economics, history, languages, and geography.

In addition, the students will learn better communication skills when working in groups with their classmates. Through the interactive group work, a student will no longer be passively sitting there and listening to the lecture of the teacher.

"We really need a rethinking of education and a redesigning of our system, so it prepares our children for the future with the skills that are needed for today and tomorrow. There are schools that are teaching in the old fashioned way which was of benefit in the beginnings of the 1900s – but the needs are not the same and we need something fit for the 21st century," said Helsinki's education manager, Marjo Kyllonen, in an interview with the Independent magazine.

Early data from the schools that adapted the topic based teaching approach have shown a positive outcome in the students' results. The head of Finland's education system is pushing the new approach to be applied in more schools across the country and training teachers to apply the new system.

Not only in the higher school levels is Finland revolutionizing education, but also in the pre-school and elementary school sector. The country is leading in a "playful" learning approach that should encourage students to learn in a happy, safe, and inspiring environment. In a case study that was done by the Independent, the journalists were fascinated by kids running through the corridors, while learning about different parts of Africa or kids that move around a European map on the whiteboard, while speaking a foreign language.

The big question is how other countries, like the United States, will react to Finland's new approach when it continues to show further success in the PISA tests that are published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The education system in the United States has its roots in 1903 when John D. Rockefeller founded the General Education Board. The education board provided a standardized learning curriculum that was not designed to encourage critical thinking, but rather create a reliable, predictable, and obedient citizen, according to Thrive movement.

This education dated back to the industrial age and was designed to train employees for that age. Today, however, people live in the information age and different skills are required for people to be successful in today's society. This conflicts with the common core and an outdated education system. According to Forbes magazine, it required communication and people skills to be successful in the current marketplace.

Only time will tell whether the United States and other western countries will be able to adjust and change their education system for the better. The education of today shapes the future of a country.

Arts & Entertainment

Rogue One: A New Hope for Star Wars

By Stephen Skipper
Contributing Writer

A long time ago, in theaters far away, one single movie changed the course of the science fiction genre as we knew it. That movie was "Star Wars." This series has been one of the longest reigning and most successful sagas in film history. Their recent entry, "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," however, is a departure from the somewhat lighthearted nature for a more serious take on the space opera.

Starring Felicity Jones as female lead Jyn Erso, she and a group of Rebel fighters band together to steal the plans of the menacing Death Star as a last hope for the galaxy to fight the evils of the Galactic Empire. She is accompanied by Diego Luna as Cassian Andor, a leading Rebel figure, Alan Tudyk, the voice for the wisecracking droid K-2SO, Donnie Yen as Chirrut Imwe, a blind monk who is not to be messed with, and his companion, Baze Malbus, as portrayed by Jiang Wen.

One of the draws to this film is the diversity of the cast. There are actors from the United Kingdom, Mexico, Denmark, China, and more. Plus, these actors were not made to have American accents but their own.

The film is not without controversy, however. One such point is the use of late actor Peter Cushing in the film. Using actor Guy Henry, the crew used computer animation to recreate the likeness of his original role from "A New Hope," Grand Moff Tarkin. This has raised dispute over using a deceased actor to avoid paying any extra fees and the fact that no consent from the actor could be given. However, to some fans this is not an issue, as it shows that the crew of the film respects the actor enough to bring him back for the role, with not even death stopping their efforts to do so.

This raises questions to how they will go about this in the future with the recent passing of longtime Princess Leia actress, Carrie Fisher. "Rogue One" did digitally enhance an actress to represent a younger Leia though this was overlooked due to the fact Fisher was still alive at the time and could express her consent.

Overall, this film was extremely well done. The characters had excellent stories to each of them and had brilliant chemistry with one another. The action was some of the best seen in the series. The ending was a bit of a confusing direction to take, but the way they carried it out was a beautiful way to finish.

If fans are looking for old favorites such as Luke Skywalker and Han Solo, then unfortunately they are out of luck, as this film focuses on an entirely brand new cast. This does not detract from the movie at all as the characters develop wonderfully and connect well with the audience. The new cast had a large act to live up to that is the legacy that is Star Wars and they did indeed succeed in that matter. Even with the darker tone the film carries, there are still touches of humor from the characters as well.

This movie earns an A- for the diversity of the cast and the overall quality, but is docked off for controversy of using Peter Cushing's likeness and other smaller faults. Do not let this turn you away from seeing this, as "Rogue One" is still a magnificent standalone in the Star Wars franchise.

In a sad note, however, this was technically Fisher's last active role in the Star Wars universe as she passed away from heart complications on December 27. She will be appearing in the upcoming Star Wars "Episode VIII" as she had finished her commitments for the film as her final appearance as Princess Leia.

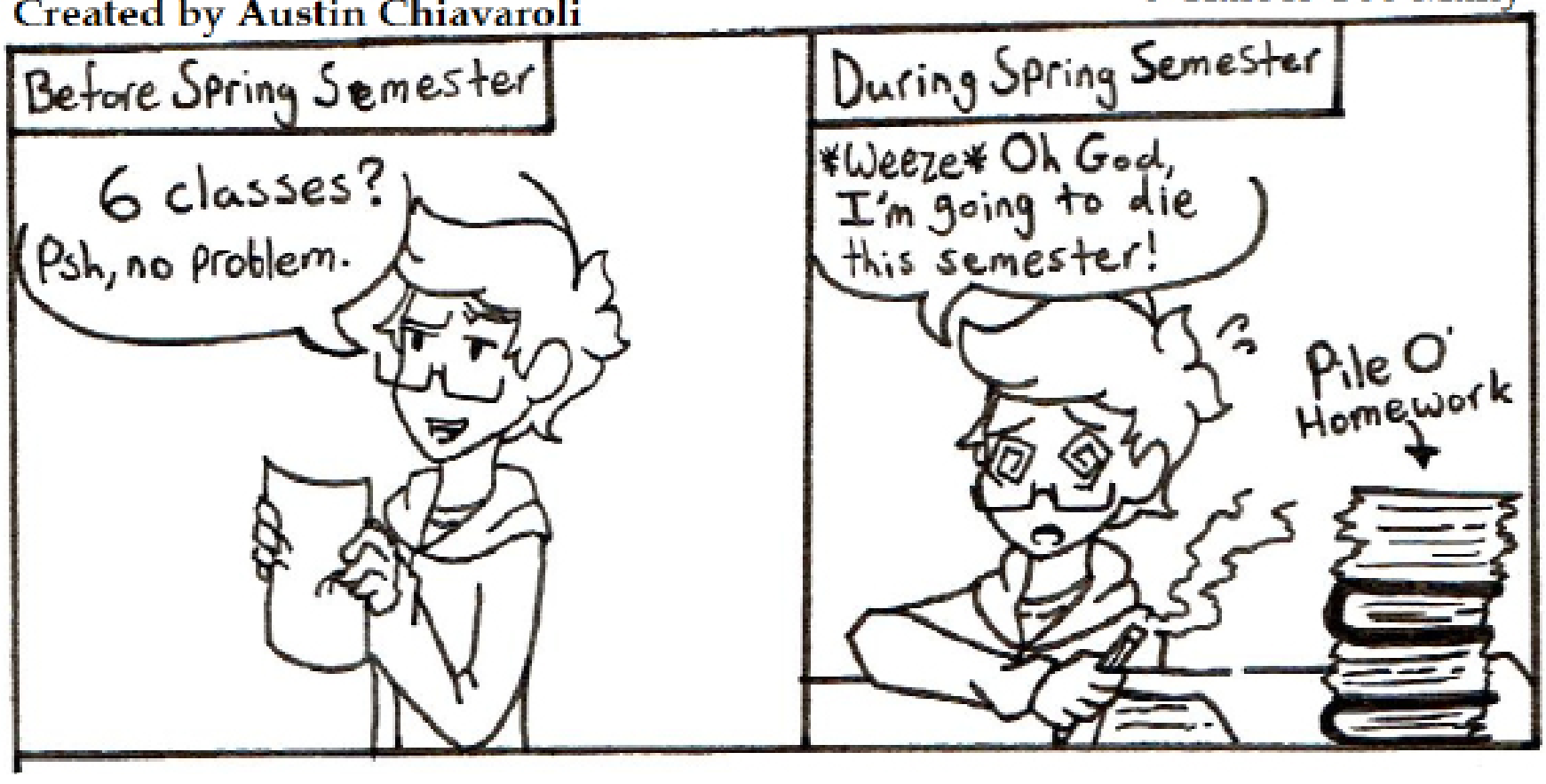
Upcoming Events

20th Annual Kumquat Festival
Date:
1/28 @ 9 AM - 5 PM
Location:
Downtown Dade City
Contact:
The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce
352-567-3769
Price:
Free
Description:
Visitors can enjoy kumquat treats ranging from pie, ice cream, cookies, smoothies, marmalade and salsa. There will be local entertainment, face painting, antique cars, and arts and crafts.

Farm Fest and Quilt Show
Date:
2/4 @ 9 AM - 4 PM
Location:
15602 Pioneer Museum Rd, Dade City
Contact:
Pioneer Florida Museum & Village 352-567-0262
Price:
Starting at $5
Description:
Quilt show, draft horse pull competition, venders, "The Way We Worked Smithsonian Exhibition," arts and crafts, petting zoo, syrup making, music, and more activities.

College Days
Created by Austin Chiavaroli

"6 Classes Too Many"


Before Spring Semester
6 classes? Psh, no problem.
During Spring Semester
Weeze Oh God, I'm going to die this semester!
Pile O' Homework

Arts & Entertainment

Top Ten Indie Games

By Austin Chiavaroli
Contributing Writer

Picture from @Undertale

Indie games are growing more and more popular in the gaming community due to the creativity they bring to their audience.

In the past decade, indie games—independent games created by small companies which normally have no financial support from a publisher—have risen in popularity. Unlike highly known gaming companies, these small company teams must be both innovative and creative to sell their game. When they get everything right, indie games can prove to be more memorable than those of accomplished publishers. But which ones are the best known across the gaming community? Here is a list of the top 10 indie games.

10. To The Moon

With the gameplay of this game being very linear and not having much action, it's the story that keeps the player playing it. "To the Moon" has a nostalgic and emotional story that has touched the hearts of many who have bought it. With its retro-like with its pixelated style, and a massive amount of popular YouTube icons playing it, this game has been getting more recognition since its release.

9. Bastion

In "Bastion," the player takes on the role of "The Kid" in a strange world that has been devastated due to the clashing ideologies of two societies. Traversing floating islands and segmented land filled with creatures and items from before the world's end, it is up to "The Kid" to either remake the world or carry on trudging through its remains. With beautiful colors, a variety of weaponry to choose from, a compelling, yet short, story, and a western/sci-fi soundtrack, this one is many gamer's favorite lists.

8. Dust: An Elysian Tale

Ever wish your character could just dash across the screen, sword in hand, wiping out all of the enemies that surround them? "Dust: An Elysian Tale" does just that. The story focuses around the main character, Dust, and his fight to stop an evil tyrant and learn of his past, of which he has no recollection of. With his magic talking sword in hand and his flying sidekick, Fidget, he will stop at nothing to learn who he is. "Dust: An Elysian Tale" gives players an action packed adventure with very likeable characters.

7. Limbo

With a dark, black and white atmosphere, "Limbo" lets the player take control of a child who finds himself in a mysterious and creepy world. There are many puzzles to solve and tons of moments where the player must have a quick reaction time to keep the child alive. This game shows how interesting and inviting a game can be, even with no amount of dialogue spoke throughout it.

6. Braid

Time control isn't anything new to the gaming community. However, "Braid" gives a cool way to use time control. Tim, the main character, is looking for a princess, who he notes he has made a mistake to. He then travels through levels looking for keys to unlock new doors in a house to find the right door to get to the princess. Using his time controlling powers, he manipulates time to help him solve the vast number of puzzles the doors hold within themselves. With its beautiful artwork, and the music setting a relaxing atmosphere, this game became popular quickly.

5. Stardew Valley

"Stardew Valley" is much like other farming simulation games; however, it has a few twists to it that keep it unique from others. When the player's grandfather dies, he gives them a deed to his farm house, where they go to escape their boring desk job. Once arrived, the player can create new buildings, meet and converse with the next-door townspeople, go mining, and of course, tend to their farmland and expand. With a pixelated style and bright characters all around, a player can get lost playing this game for hours.

4. Don't Starve

"Don't Starve" throws the player into the shoes of Wilson, who just wakes up in a dark forest. With supernatural creatures coming to end his life, players must find a way to survive the nights and make every second count during the day to make progress in keeping him alive for another night. This game has become even more popular with its multiplayer version "Don't Starve Together."

3. Super Meat Boy

"Super Meat Boy" is a very odd game where the girlfriend of a square shaped character made of meat, rightly called Meat Boy, has been kidnapped. It is Meat Boy's task to platform his way through many levels, defeat the evil scientist, Dr. Fetus, and save his girlfriend, Bandage Girl, from his evil clutches. Known as one of the hardest platformers in video game history, this game will have many ripping their hair out and rage quitting. However, the game is incredibly fun and can be very time consuming to those who are looking for something reminiscent of old platforming games.

2. Five Nights at Freddy's

In "Five Nights at Freedy's," the player takes on the role of a night guard at Freddy Fazbear's Pizzaria. While his shift isn't that busy, there is one surprising thing that the player finds out: the animatronics in the building come alive at night, ready to kill anything that has a beating heart. It is the player's job to watch the security cameras for the four different animatronics and close the two opposite doors whenever they get a little too close for comfort while also conserving the energy they have left. This franchise grew more popular with its multiple sequels and from well-known YouTube icons playing it.

1. Undertale

"Undertale" is an RPG that has the player play as a child who has fallen down a hole into a world of monsters. Now it is up to the player to choose whether they want to destroy every opponent that comes across their path or find the right way to befriend them and spare them. With colorful characters, many hilarious jokes and moments, a magnificent and emotional story, and a fantastic soundtrack that mixes bit-music and multiple instruments together, it's no wonder this game became as popular as it is.

New indie titles are always being released and more new titles are becoming more famous among the gaming community for both style and creativity. While mainstream games from high companies make decent games, indie games still prove that it's not necessary to redo a formula to make something better; there just needs to be a creative idea to work off of.

Sports

Track Team Prepares for Spring Season

By Niclas Bez
Staff Writer

The Saint Leo University's Track team prepared to start off their Spring season on Feb. 18 in Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla. The Track program is an official part of the Saint Leo athletics department since 2014, which makes them the youngest program on campus.

Even though the program is the newest addition there have already been major successes with athletes qualifying for the National Championship and scoring major results for the University. On the men's side, Herns Agyemang was the first male athlete to qualify for the National Meet in 2015, where he earned 13th place. On the women's side, Colett Rampf qualified twice already in the 3000 meter steeplechase, where she earned her first All-American award in 2016 with a 5th place. In addition to that, there have been more runners that were able to run B-Provisional standards, but did not make the cut to attend the National Meet.

In the 2017 season, multiple Lions have the ability to qualify for the Championship in different events. One of the hopefuls is Rafal Matuszczak, who previously ran national standards on the track and just earned his first cross country All-American award in Fall of 2016.

"I believe this could possibly be the most successful season we have had in program history. I'm expecting a lot of good races from all of our men. It was exciting to see that everyone came back in shape and has been up for every challenge we have put in front of them these first few weeks. I believe that we have a chance to send multiple athletes to nationals this season. We have sent one male runner to nationals in the past but I believe we will see some more Lions at nationals in May right here in Florida," said Coach Connor Callahan, who is the men's assistant track and cross country coach.

Another hopeful is Ronald Cheserek. The Cross Country Conference champion and conference runner of the year will focus on the mid-distance events, where he hopes to earn the top 16 in the country that is required to go to the National meet.

"The women's team is looking better each workout. I have already seen improvements coming off of the break the past two weeks. I think by the time they start racing and especially by mid-season they will be in good shape, as long as we can keep them healthy," said Women's Assistant Track and Cross Country Coach Katie Henriksen.

The focus on the women's side will remain on Rampf, who owns many school records on the track and in cross country. Rampf earned Cross Country and Track All-American honors and has been constantly improving over the last few years.

"I am expecting a standout performance from Lauren Csubak. If she stays on the track she is on after coming off of her huge improvements in cross country and I think she will really rock the 800 meter this track season! If Alyssa Bayliff can stay healthy I would expect to see an awesome 5 kilometer performance from her, and I also expect Laura Tobin to run an impressive 10 kilometer," Henriksen continued.

Photo from @saintleoxctrack

Rampf placed 5th at the National Championship in the 3000m steeplechase in the previous year.

Both, the men's and the women's team seem to be very optimistic about their upcoming track season. The athletes are prepared to put in the work and represent Saint Leo University in Florida and all across the country. Since there is no track on the Saint Leo campus the closest location where the Lions can be seen are at USF and the University of Tampa.

"I think the overall goal of this track season is to improve our mentality. Specifically, I think the goal is to develop more mental toughness and be able to develop not just physically. To do so the team needs to maintain a positive attitude, and work on their overall toughness," Henriksen added.

The Lions also plan on travelling to big national meets, where they will be able to compare themselves to some of the best athletes in the country from Division I and II. These big meets, however, require fast times to qualify, which forces the athletes to start out their season with some fast times.

"Some of the big meets we are looking forward to this season are races at USF, Raleigh Relays at NC State, and Mt. Sac or Azusa Pacific in California. All of these meets will give our athletes the chance to compete against great competition throughout the country," said Callahan.

The Lions Pride Newspaper will keep you updated on the journey of the Lions Track Team on their quest for national qualifying standards.

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